Change Record Detail With Description

Department of Natural Resources

Scenario: FY2002-2003 Homeland Security Amended (2511)
Component: Parks Management (452)
BRU: Parks and Recreation Management (138)

Scenario/ Change Record Title	Trans Type	Totals	Personal Services	Travel	Contractual	Supplies	Equipment	Land/ Buildings	Grants Claims	Misc.	Positions PFT	PPT	NP
FY2002-2003 Homeland Security													
FY2002 Park Rangers to Provide Full-time Security of the Watershed in Chugach State Park													
	Inc	117.6	31.4	0.0	6.8	3.4	76.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2	0	0
1004 Gen Fund	117.6												

Change Record Detail With Description

Department of Natural Resources

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Component: Parks Management (452)
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Scenario/ Change Record Title	Trans Type	Totals	Personal Services	Travel	Contractual	Supplies	Equipment	Land/ Buildings	Grants Claims	Misc.	Positions PFT	PPT	NP

After the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the FBI and EPA distributed notice to the more than 10,000 public water agencies through out the nation alerting them to possible threats to public water sources. The Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies representing the 150 largest water providers in the US, the American Water Works Association representing over 50,000 professionals, and the Association of Metropolitan Sewer Agencies were all notified. The Anchorage Water and Waste Water Utility (AWWU) is among those agencies.*

Chugach State Park was established in 1970 in part, to "protect and supply a satisfactory water supply for use of the people" (AS 41.21.121). The people referred to in the statute are the citizens of the Municipality of Anchorage. Over 95% of the water for the Anchorage water supply system operated by AWWU is derived from the watersheds in Chugach State Park. Today, the waters of Eklutna Lake are used to supply the Anchorage water system. Ship Creek water is used as a back up supply source for Anchorage and is also used to supply water to Elmendorf AFB and Fort Richardson. Campbell Creek recharges groundwater supplies which are then pumped by AWWU to obtain the remaining 5% of the water system supply.

Current park ranger staffing levels do not allow for daily patrols of Eklutna Lake, Ship Creek, or the tributaries of Campbell Creek, the areas that produce the Anchorage water supply. Rangers currently working are not solely dedicated to law enforcement or facility security matters, but spend the majority of their time attending to a variety of tasks related to park management, i.e. volunteer supervision, revenue management, facility maintenance, etc. On a year-round basis these resources may only see weekly, or less frequent, patrols. More park rangers working in Chugach would allow park managers to schedule more frequent patrols of these areas and to implement security programs, in cooperation with AWWU and others, that are not possible with available staff.

Two additional Park Rangers, would provide the depth of staff necessary to allow a seven-day a week presence in the Eklutna Lake Area and more frequent patrols of the Ship and Campbell Creek watersheds in Chugach State Park.

Annual Cost per Park Ranger Position:
Park Ranger I (R14) @ 12 months - $ 47.0
Vehicle operation costs/fuel - $ 6.0
Training - $ 2.0
Office/lease space - $ 2.0
Supplies/materials - $ 3.0
Law enforcement equipment and tools - $ 2.0
Total: $62.0/ranger/yr x 2= $124.0 year

Change Record Detail With Description

Department of Natural Resources

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Scenario/ Change Record Title	Trans Type	Totals	Personal Services	Travel	Contractual	Supplies	Equipment	Land/ Buildings	Grants Claims	Misc.	Positions PFT	PPT	NP

One time startup costs:
Vehicle & ATV/Snowmachine - $38.0 x 2 = $76.0 first year

FY2002 costs for 2 rangers & vehicles annualized to assume start in March, 2002 = $117.6
Following year costs= $124.0

* Source - Mark Primo, General Manager, AWWU.

Change Record Detail With Description

Department of Natural Resources

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BRU: Parks and Recreation Management (138)

Scenario/ Change Record Title	Trans Type	Totals	Personal Services	Travel	Contractual	Supplies	Equipment	Land/ Buildings	Grants Claims	Misc.	Positions PFT	PPT	NP
FY2002-2003 Homeland Security													
FY2003 Continue Park Rangers to Provide Full-time Security of the Watershed in Chugach State Park													
	Inc	124.0	94.0	0.0	20.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
1004 Gen Fund	124.0												

Change Record Detail With Description

Department of Natural Resources

Scenario: FY2002-2003 Homeland Security Amended (2511)
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BRU: Parks and Recreation Management (138)

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Law enforcement equipment and tools - $ 2.0
Total: $62.0/ranger/yr x 2= $124.0 year

Change Record Detail With Description

Department of Natural Resources

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BRU: Parks and Recreation Management (138)

Scenario/ Change Record Title	Trans Type	Totals	Personal Services	Travel	Contractual	Supplies	Equipment	Land/ Buildings	Grants Claims	Misc.	Positions PFT	PPT	NP
One time startup costs included in FY2002 request: Vehicle & ATV/Snowmachine - $38.0 x 2 = $76.0 first year													
* Source - Mark Primo, General Manager, AWWU.													
Totals		**241.6**	**125.4**	**0.0**	**26.8**	**13.4**	**76.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**2**	**0**	**0**

Change Record Detail With Description

Department of Natural Resources

Scenario: FY2002-2003 Homeland Security Amended (2511)
Component: Fire Suppression (437)
BRU: Statewide Fire Suppression Program (140)

Scenario/ Change Record Title	Trans Type	Totals	Personal Services	Travel	Contractual	Supplies	Equipment	Land/ Buildings	Grants Claims	Misc.	Positions PFT	PPT	NP
FY2002-2003 Homeland Security													
FY2002 Initial Attack Firefighter Program													
	Inc	305.0	200.0	20.0	60.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	20	0
1004 Gen Fund	305.0												

Change Record Detail With Description

Department of Natural Resources

Scenario: FY2002-2003 Homeland Security Amended (2511)
Component: Fire Suppression (437)
BRU: Statewide Fire Suppression Program (140)

Scenario/ Change Record Title	Trans Type	Totals	Personal Services	Travel	Contractual	Supplies	Equipment	Land/ Buildings	Grants Claims	Misc.	Positions PFT	PPT	NP

The problem is that initial attack firefighting capability has been outstripped by population growth. It is critical that initial attack is successful in catching fires in wildland/urban interface areas such as Anchorage, Fairbanks, Mat-Su, and the Kenai. Lives depend upon it. Population from 1990 to 2000 has increased by 15% in the Anchorage, Fairbanks, Mat-Su and Kenai Boroughs while initial attack firefighters have decreased from 72 to 68 statewide. Today there is one firefighter for every 6,637 people. Today we have over three million acres of spruce bark beetle killed timber. Today 84% of state fires are caused by humans. Today many, many homes are in spruce killed forests on roads with only one way of escape. Today the risk to life and valuable property is much higher than just a few years ago.

The fact that the 68 initial attack firefighters have managed to catch 90% of fires at less than ten acres spread is phenomenal. But it is taking its toll on firefighters. We have areas with ten or more wind-driven fires per day occurring across a 40-mile area. The few firefighters cannot be everywhere and they cannot be successful when exhausted. Firefighters must be ready to go at a moment's notice - the fire won't wait for a crew to get there two hours later or more. That is why initial attack firefighters must be in place and ready where they are needed. Resources are stretched too thin for the risks in wildland/urban interface initial attack.

This increment meets several of the anti-terrorism and response guidelines listed in the Governor's draft legislation dated 11/19/01:
- The addition of 20 highly trained and skilled seasonal initial attack firefighters will strengthen an existing program that protects and saves lives;
- These positions will be trained in and skilled in National Interagency Incident Management System (NIIMS), Incident Command System (ICS) and will be capable of safely responding to assist in all emergencies, not just wildland fire;
- The 20 seasonal initial attack firefighters will be highly mobile and can be utilized to protect human made improvements and natural resources across the State;
- The 20 seasonal positions will reinforce first responders, and will be used to augment wildland fire response in populated urban interface areas and will be available to assist with other disasters in locations with inadequate response capabilities.

The State will be safer because the addition of these highly skilled and mobile initial attack firefighters will aid in the suppression of wildland fires in the densely populated urban interface areas of the state.

If these initial attack firefighter positions are not funded the threat of an escaped wildland fire in the critical urban interface areas of the state is higher. If a terrorist attack uses arson over a large forested area and initial attack positions are not funded it could result in large-scale destruction of property and perhaps loss of life.

Change Record Detail With Description

Department of Natural Resources

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Component: Fire Suppression (437)
BRU: Statewide Fire Suppression Program (140)

Scenario/ Change Record Title	Trans Type	Totals	Personal Services	Travel	Contractual	Supplies	Equipment	Land/ Buildings	Grants Claims	Misc.	Positions PFT	PPT	NP

A successful solution to this problem must provide immediate initial attack capability, mobility of firefighters to different populated areas from Homer to Fairbanks, use of modules (five firefighters) to protect broader areas, and availability during peak fire risk. Twenty initial attack firefighters are needed for four months during fire season. These permanent seasonal forest technician firefighters will be positioned in four modules consisting of five initial attack firefighters around the state to augment the current firefighters. They will be mobile. They will be moved to the population areas of highest danger that exist at any given time. The modules will be assigned as engine crewmembers or helitack crewmembers in the wildland/urban areas. Sixteen of these positions will be forest technician I/II firefighters and four will be forest technician III initial attack incident commander firefighters. These four-month seasonal firefighters are needed during the height of fire season in the populated areas.

Forestry has proposed this solution for several reasons. To be effective, fire response must be safe, rapid and successful. To be prepared, Forestry needs trained firefighters in position close to areas of highest danger. Forestry's 68 existing initial attack firefighters are statically assigned to given Areas because fires occur in those areas throughout the season. Each Area has a peak period of two to three weeks. The areas of highest fire danger shift from south to north as the season progresses. Five person modules of the twenty initial attack firefighters can be readily moved without jeopardizing the basic unit strength response needed for ongoing fires throughout the season in each area.

Alternatives to additional initial attack firefighters have been considered and found less desirable. In addition to the 68 permanent seasonal forest technician firefighters, Forestry hires Emergency Firefighters (EFF) as individuals, Type II crews, and a Type I crew.

EFF Crews are critical and essential to firefighting. There are two levels of EFF crews that are used:
1) A basic Type II level unit; and
2) A Type I "Hotshot" unit.

There are 73 Type II EFF crews, primarily from Alaskan villages. They train and work together as a unit of 16 firefighters supervised by a local crew boss. A Type II EFF crew receives fire safety and physical training since their work consists mostly of wildland fire suppression using hand tools. Type II EFF crews work for 14-day assignments on project fires that have escaped initial attack and will require extended periods of firefighting.
Type I "Hotshot" crews of 20 firefighters receive extensive training in wildland and urban/interface firefighting and safety. They have trained "sawyers" using chainsaws, must work in a wide variety of fuel types including "big timber" in steep and dangerous terrain not seen in Alaska. They are the elite firefighter crew that deals with the most dangerous and difficult situations anywhere. Type I "Hotshot" crews are a national resource. They can be mobilized and committed outside Alaska for 14 days (or longer). Experience

Change Record Detail With Description

Department of Natural Resources

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BRU: Statewide Fire Suppression Program (140)

Scenario/ Change Record Title	Trans Type	Totals	Personal Services	Travel	Contractual	Supplies	Equipment	Land/ Buildings	Grants Claims	Misc.	Positions PFT	PPT	NP

has shown that Type I crews may not be available in Alaska when needed the most. There are four Type I "Hotshot" crews in the state, three are federal and unavailable for this function. The fourth, the Tazlina Hotshots, is an elite crew used both nationally and in-state. When not on actual fires, they have been fully utilized by the Kenai Peninsula Borough and the Municipality of Anchorage, as a crew, to do fuel mitigation.
Disadvantages: EFF crews work as a unit and are not used for initial attack. EFF crews are not trained for or used on engines or helitack. The nature of a crew that has 14-day assignments does not lend itself to four months continuous initial attack. The Type II village crews in particular often depend on assignment rotations that give them opportunities for fish camp and subsistence activities. Neither Type I nor Type II crews can be readily broken into modules, dispersed across the state and still maintain their availability as a crew on two hours notice for fires.

Hiring additional individual Emergency firefighters (EFF) is a possible alternative. During the past decade, Forestry has been forced to become more reliant on EFF positions to fulfill the initial attack role. The disadvantage of relying on EFF for a continued annual initial attack firefighter need is that such positions do not provide the state with a dependable workforce. EFF positions are dependent on work being available if there are fires. This results in short term jobs that may terminate at any time. Therefore, EFF employees are not provided the opportunity for the same level of training, physical fitness standards or commitment as seasonal firefighter positions. The nature of EFF positions is neither an incentive to retaining individuals nor conducive to training and retaining a dependable mobile initial attack force.

Detailers can be requested from out of state to provide initial attack firefighters. This would supply the firefighters when we need them. The disadvantage is that it would significantly increase costs for their transportation and subsistence from the lower 48, deprive Alaskans of jobs, and depend upon their availability around fire seasons elsewhere.

Conclusion: EFF crews, individual EFF, and detailers each serve a specific function in wildland firefighting; but, their specific functions do not lend themselves to initial attack. The specialized training and experience of seasonal forest technician firefighters in initial attack allows them to be more aggressive fighting fires without compromising safety. Aggressive initial attack is critical to keep fires from escaping.

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FY2002-2003 Homeland Security													
FY2003 Continue Initial Attack Firefighter Program													
	Inc	400.0	260.0	27.0	83.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
1004 Gen Fund	400.0												

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Totals		**705.0**	**460.0**	**47.0**	**143.0**	**55.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0**	**20**	**0**